



USS Blue Ridge

Family Gram Winter 2005

35 YEARS

OF

HONORABLE

SERVICE





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Blue Ridge Family and Friends,

The Holiday season is once again upon us, and we are extremely thankful for a safe and successful year. I take this opportunity to show my appreciation to all of the support that you have shown to your Sailor throughout 2005.

Since assuming command of Blue Ridge in September, I have been truly impressed by the workmanship and professionalism of each member of the Blue Ridge crew. They did a magnificent job during our fall maintenance period, which saw the completion of critical improvements to the ship, ensuring we're ready to answer all bells now and in the future.

We just completed the highly successful "Terminal Fury" exercise led by Admiral Roughead, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Your Sailors once again stepped up to the plate and delivered! While Commander, Seventh Fleet hosted the annual event, Blue Ridge embarked hundreds of Sailors, soldiers and airmen; including many flag and general officers for the exercise and provided them with all-around 5 star customer services. All hands did their part to make the ship look great! The Engineers ensured hot water and heat were available to all, and Supply personnel provided four meals a day and comfortable living conditions. Our Combat Systems and Communications Departments ensured all embarked personnel had uninterrupted communications and computer access. The Deck and Operations Departments played key roles during the underway portion of the exercise, while the Medical and Admin Departments provided service to all on board. From the first day of the exercise until it wrapped up, I received numerous commendatory remarks for the support provided by the Blue Ridge team.

We are currently getting ready to take a well deserved "Holiday Stand Down" rest period, and it is my prayer that all of our Blue Ridge Sailors have a safe and blessed holiday season with family and friends. I wish all of the families and friends of the Blue Ridge a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. May you enjoy this holy season, and the celebration associated with it as well as Kwanzaa and the New Year. I hope that 2006 is a year filled with joy and happiness for each of you.

Sincerely,

J. S. Bartkoski
Commanding Officer
USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19)



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Blue Ridge Family Friends,

I would like to say "Thank you" to our entire Blue Ridge team for a highly successful and productive year. We accomplished a lot and have so much to be proud of. Every Blue Ridge Sailor plays a significant role in all that we do. From the day to day operations to significant milestones, none of it is possible without the hard work of your Sailors.

I hope you and your Sailor's enjoy a wonderful holiday season! Your Sailors deserve the down-time to enjoy the company of family and friends. I hope the festive season recharges their batteries and every member of the Blue Ridge team returns to the ship safely and ready to make 2006 a success.

I would also like to congratulate the following Sailor's on their outstanding accomplishments. Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW/AW) Elias Calaunan was chosen as our Senior Sailor of the Quarter for a second time, which is why he was also announced as our 2005 Sailor of the year. Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Stacy Johnson was selected as our Junior Sailor of the Quarter, while recently promoted Engineman 1st Class (SW) Brian Metzger was announced as the ship's Junior Sailor of the Year. Machinist's Mate 3rd Class (SW) Leon Robinson was selected as Blue Ridge and Commander Amphibious Group One Blue Jacket of the Quarter, as well as the command's Blue Jacket of the Year. Bravo Zulu to all of them!

As always, I am very proud to be the Blue Ridge Command Master Chief and it is your Sailor who makes a difference in the Seventh Fleet area of responsibility. Everyday I see your Sailors giving it their best in all they do as they serve our country with pride.

To our Ombudsman Cheryl Galito, thank you for all of your support throughout the year! The Blue Ridge family is fortunate to have you on the team. Congratulations for the new addition to the family.

Finally, I would like to wish the entire Blue Ridge Family a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year." Be safe and return to us ready to make 2006 the best!

Sincerely,

Tony Knight
Command Master Chief
USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19)



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Important Information for all BlueRidge Family Members....

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, all Blue Ridge family and friends; both far and near, should know that the Navy has measures in place for the protection, relocation, and evacuation of Sailors and their families during times of emergency. These plans are called "NONCOMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATIONS," often referred to by the acronym "NEO".

In times of crisis or danger, the U. S. Government in Japan has very detailed plans to move noncombatants to positions of greater safety. The U. S. Ambassador to Japan will decide when to evacuate noncombatants. U. S. Military forces will serve as the focus to execute the evacuation.

NEO (Non Combatant Evacuation Operation) is a State Department endorsed operation in which non-essential personnel are evacuated from an area due to emergencies such as civil unrest, natural disasters, and or terrorism. On a yearly basis, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) conducts a drill to exercise its ability to safely evacuate non-combatants from Yokosuka Naval Base and its satellite areas. This year's drill will be conducted on February 2006. Although we will be away from home port, BLUE RIDGE's personnel will be randomly selected by CFAY's NEO Coordinator and these spouses/dependents will be required to muster at the processing station and simulate the evacuation process.

All BLUE RIDGE personnel who have dependents accompanying them in Japan are required to maintain a NEO Census Database which is filed with Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka. Additionally, a NEO package consisting of various paperwork is required to be maintained by the spouse of the service member at home. Please ensure that you contact your Departmental NEO representative to verify that your database is accurate and all paperwork is in order. Any further questions can be answered by contacting your Departmental NEO representative or ET1(SW/AW) Calaunan at 243-6474 or via e-mail at: calaune@lcc19.navy.mil.

Departmental Representatives:

ADMIN	PS3 Cromartie
DECK	BM1 Lozada
OPS	OS1 McNair
CBS	ET2 Chu
SUPPLY	CS1 Cabacungan
COMM	IT2 Valentine
MED	HM2 Heinze
ENG	MM1 Rosimo

NEO Package:

- Passport
- Dependent Identification Card
- DD Form 1337 – Pay authorization
- DD Form 2585 – Repatriation Form
- Emergency kit – (3 Days Supply of food/water; essentials)
- Birth Certificate
- Marriage Certificate
- Vehicle Registration (Copy)
- Power of Attorney



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Blue Ridge Electronics Technician Earns Quarterly Honors for Second Time

The Seventh Fleet Command and Control ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) recently named Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW/AW) Elias Calaunan as the command's Senior Sailor of the Quarter.

Calaunan, a Las Vegas native, won the prestigious Sailor of the Quarter last year, and said he was really amazed to win the award for a second time.

"I was really surprised to have won again because it was a tough competition this time around, and I did not expect to win," said Calaunan.

Chief Electronics Technician (SW) Glenn Coon said Calaunan is a sustained superior performer, and he is performing at the Chief Petty Officer level.

"I think that he should be a chief," said Coon. "He can run the division on his own, and he takes care of his people and also he ensures that the mission is always complete."

Calaunan said that the best part of his job is looking out for his Sailors and celebrating their success.

"I enjoy taking care of my guys every day, and I get the most satisfaction out of my job watching them succeed," said Calaunan.

Calaunan enjoys being aboard Blue Ridge because of the exotic Western Pacific port visits.

"I enjoy all of the traveling the Blue Ridge does," said Calaunan. That is why I wanted to be on this ship... so that I could visit all of South East Asia."

Calaunan's future plans include rising through the enlisted ranks and eventually returning for sea duty in the United States.

"Hopefully, I will make chief," said Calaunan. "I would like to go back to the States to another ship, preferably an aircraft carrier in Washington state."



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Blue Ridge Operations Specialist Shines as Junior Sailor of the Quarter

The Seventh Fleet Command and Control ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) recently named Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Stacy Johnson as the command's Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

Johnson, a Chicago native, won the award for the third quarter of calendar year 2005. After nearly three years aboard, she advanced from a self-proclaimed "confused young seaman" to the cornerstone of OI division's success; Johnson is humbled by her most recent accomplishment.

"It's definitely an honor knowing that I won this award while being compared to the ship's most squared away E-5s," said Johnson. "It also feels good to get noticed for all of the hard work I have been doing since I was a seaman."

In order to become a quality leader, one must be a good follower. However, one cannot become a good follower if they were not effectively led themselves. Johnson's praise of her chain of command is a breath of fresh air for the future of the United States Navy.

"I feel that I have the best LCPO on the water front," said Johnson. "OSC Still coupled with OS1 (SW) Kevin Ussery and CTTC (SW/AW) Jasen Williams have helped me a great deal with my career, both in CIC and other areas. I can honestly say they are the reason why I haven't given up and continue to better myself daily."

Chief Operations Specialist (SW) Richard Still, OI division's leading chief petty officer, said that Johnson contributes unequivocally to Blue Ridge's operational readiness with her unwavering dedication to Combat Information Center's mission.

"Petty Officer Johnson is the leading air direction controller and watch supervisor on board," said the Pinebluff, Ark., native. "She carries a wealth of OS knowledge and our young Sailors benefit from her leadership style and the training she provides them."

Johnson will transfer to the USS Chancellorsville in December. She also has future leadership aspirations that will take her closer to home and afford the opportunity to mold the Navy's future as a recruit division commander.

"It has been an honor serving on Blue Ridge, but I'm looking forward to moving on to the Chancellorsville," said Johnson. "After that, I want to push boots in my hometown. I'm definitely going to miss Blue Ridge when I leave."



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Blue Ridge and PHIBGRU ONE Honors Hot Runner as Blue Jacket of the Quarter

Machinist's Mate 3rd Class (SW) Leon Robinson was recently named the USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) and Commander, Amphibious Group One Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

Robinson, a Wilmington, Del., native expressed surprise and gratitude on his selections as both the command and Immediate Superior in Charge (ISIC) level.

"Being selected is a great honor," said Robinson. "I hope to use this as a stepping stone towards earning a commission."

Ensign Devlin Messmer, the Auxiliaries division officer, sees Robinson as more than a top performer, but also a very well-rounded Sailor.

"It's a privilege to have him in my division," said Messmer. "He's the kind of Sailor I would want in the forefront, showing others what it means [to be a

Sailor]."

Master Chief Machinist's Mate (SW) Rahn Hetrick, the Engineering department's leading chief petty officer, believes Robinson is a great asset to the Navy.

"He's a stellar Sailor that the Navy needs to keep," said Hetrick. "He has the ability to gain expertise from doing something just once or twice and then can take that knowledge and teach others. He'll make a great chief or officer."

During his tour, Robinson has taken advantage of every opportunity given, becoming one of the most qualified Sailors in his division.

"I like to think that I have the ship's health and comfort in my hands," said Robinson. "I'm constantly moving and I learn something new everyday."

Robinson joined the Navy July 25, 2002, for travel opportunities and the chance to further his education. When he's not working aboard the ship, he keeps busy representing Blue Ridge as a member of the ship's basketball and football teams. Thanks to his skill and commitment, he also earned a spot on the base varsity basketball team, *Seahawks*. Through sports and volunteering for community service projects at the many ports Blue Ridge visits on its travels throughout the western Pacific and Indian oceans, Robinson has had the opportunity to represent his ship, Navy and country with pride and professionalism.

"He's disciplined ahead of his years," said Messmer. "He's a prime ambassador for the United States."



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USS Blue Ridge Celebrates 35 Years of Honorable Naval Service

Monday, November 14, 2005 USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) celebrated its 35th birthday with a cake cutting ceremony and a special meal of steak and lobster on the mess decks.

Blue Ridge Commanding Officer, Capt. Jeff Bartkoski addressed the crew and shared some historical Blue Ridge trivia peppered with tidbits of popular culture from 35 years ago. He also quizzed them on some of the significant moments that have taken place on the decks of the Seventh Fleet command ship.

“The Blue Ridge has a great history, and we also have not stopped moving either; we are constantly improving our capabilities on a daily basis,” said Bartkoski.

He invited Chief Photographer’s Mate (SW/AW) John Stadelman, whose first and now final tours of duty were on Blue Ridge, to cut the ceremonial cake with Quartermaster 2nd Class (SW) Brissetta Ortiz who has served in Blue Ridge for five years.

Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Beverley Valles said she learned a lot about the ship’s history and was pleased to see the captain interact with the crew instead of give a speech about the history of the Blue Ridge.

“I knew that the ship had a lot of history, but I did not know about any of the specific events that took place aboard Blue Ridge,” said Valles. “I also thought it was good that the captain likes to interact with the crew and ask questions about the ship.”

The Blue Ridge was commissioned on November 14, 1970, at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard as the most sophisticated command and control platform in the Navy. From 1971 until 1979, Blue Ridge operated from San Diego, California, where she deployed to the Western Pacific, earning the Meritorious Unit and Navy Unit Commendations for the evacuation of Saigon, Vietnam in 1975.

Since October 1979, Blue Ridge has been forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan as the flagship of Commander Seventh Fleet. Well suited to support a fleet commander in peacetime and in war, Blue Ridge participates routinely in U.S. and allied training exercise each year with countries throughout the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Blue Ridge performed brilliantly during a nine-and-one-half month deployment as flagship for Commander United States Naval Forces Central Command during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm from August 1990 through May 1991, for which the ship earned another Navy Unit Commendation.

USS Blue Ridge frequently makes port calls throughout the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean including Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Australia.

The Blue Ridge has also been cited for rescuing refugees and merchant vessels in need. USS Blue Ridge continuously upgrades command and control facilities, war fighting capabilities and methods of meeting the high visibility requirements of a fleet flagship.



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Blue Ridge Gets New Commanding Officer

The Seventh Fleet command ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) got a new commanding officer Sept. 10 when Capt. Jeff Bartkoski relieved Capt. J. Stephen Maynard. Vice Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Commander, Seventh Fleet, was the guest speaker of the ceremony held on the ship's flight deck.

Maynard, a Kettering, Ohio, native, assumed command of Blue Ridge in March 2003. Under his command, Blue Ridge participated in many joint and multinational exercises within the Pacific area of operations, engaging host countries with military-to-military

talks and community service projects. Blue Ridge also earned constant awards and praises under Maynard's command, including two Battle Efficiency awards, the Capt. Edward F. Ney award for food service excellence and back-to-back awards for being the best Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection unit in the Pacific Fleet.

Maynard's farewell remarks were a fitting tribute to his crew and its success. He thanked his Sailors for their sacrifice, commitment, and willingness to accept responsibility and not only meet, but overcome his expectations.

"I salute each of you," said Maynard to his crew. "You are not only talented, but devoted, big hearted and strong. In my mind, you represent the future generation of the Navy. I was honored to serve with you, humbled by your loyalty, and inspired by your character."

Maynard also talked about the positive influences his friends, family and faith had on his tenure as Blue Ridge's commanding officer. Before turning over the reigns to Bartkoski, Maynard reminisced about his time on the ship and the things he would miss most.

"As I cross the brow for the last time, I want each of you to know how proud I was to be your captain," said Maynard. "I will dearly miss the anticipation of casting off all lines, the thrill of hitting the target, the joy of your promotions, and the beauty of sunsets at sea, the assurance of seeing you vigilantly on night watch, and the satisfaction of just shaking your hand in the morning. I extend my sincere thanks to all of you for your friendship and wonderful support. Best wishes and may God bless you and your families."

Maynard's pennant was then lowered, signifying the end of his command. Bartkoski then arose and ordered Lt. Cmdr. John Wilshusen, Blue Ridge's executive officer, to break his pennant, signifying the beginning of his command of Blue Ridge.



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Bartkoski, a Sterling, Va., native, said Blue Ridge was the ship he embarked during his first summer cruise as a midshipman more than 24 years ago. He added that one of his most vivid memories of that time period was being able to climb Mount Fuji.

“My opportunity to experience the ship from an enlisted Sailor’s perspective during my summer cruise was very special,” said Bartkoski. “I could tell right away that this was a unique ship with a very distinct role. Not only a combat ship, Blue Ridge plays a significant role in our nation’s foreign policies to other countries in the South Pacific and that makes this ship very special.”

Bartkoski, who is the first naval aviator to command Blue Ridge, graduated from the US Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering and was commissioned in May 1984. Ten years later, Bartkoski completed the Staff Course at the Royal Navy Staff College in London, earning a Master of Arts degree in Defense Studies from King’s College, University of London.

As a naval aviator, Bartkoski’s tours include numerous helicopter squadrons, both as a pilot and a commander. He has also served as Flag Lieutenant to Commander, Helicopter Wings Atlantic, along with tours at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the Department of State. Bartkoski recently served as Navigator aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65) and USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67).

Bartkoski’s decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various unit awards.





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Blue Ridge demonstrates near perfection during underway assessment

SAGAMI WAN, off the coast of Japan – The Seventh Fleet flagship, USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), once again showcased the talents of its exceptional engineering team, receiving an “above average” mark for the Underway Demonstration (UD) assessment Sept. 8.

“I have been inspecting this ship for the last three years for Light Off Assessments (LOA), Initial Assessments (IA) and UD, and each time I come back the engineering plant looks better, the plant teams become more proficient, and the Engineering Training Team (ETT) always perform near perfect,” said Capt. Bill Haflich, Director of Engineering Training for Afloat Training Group (ATG) Pacific. “This is the only ship in the Pacific that I inspect that improves in every one of those area each time I return.”

UD demonstrates a ship’s engineering plant’s ability to perform up to Navy standards in four different areas of engineering; watch team training capabilities and engineering administration, evolution performance, casualty response and material condition readiness.

After a safety walk through and administrative checks, inspectors judged two different watch teams on their ability to perform basic main space tasks and complex casualty drills. The assessors gave each team 15 different tasks and six different casualty drills to perform.

“I think that we did outstanding on the drills,” said Machinist’s Mate 3rd Class Cedrick Green, an engineering watch stander. “All of the practice really helped us function well as a team for the inspection. In my opinion, drills are the best part of standing watch,” the Tampa, Fla., native said. “We get to react to all of the situations that we train for all the time. If something really went wrong on this ship, I think that our watch teams could take care of the situation with no problem.”

The Blue Ridge team did more than meet Navy standards for the evolutions and drills; they earned a near-perfect score. Team one performed four of six drills efficiently and executed 14 of 15 evolutions. Team two performed a perfect six of six drills efficiently and completed 13 of 15 evolutions. But that wasn’t the most impressive part of the drill according to Haflich.

“The Engineering Training Team (ETT) on this ship is really remarkable,” said Haflich, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native. “Even if a ship had average watch standers, this ship’s ETT could make them perform at an above average level. They are the real reason why Blue Ridge’s engineering plant performs so well.”

“Well you know what they say, practice makes perfect,” said Engineman 1st Class Ted Hayhurst, an ETT member. “For three weeks straight, we had both our Engineering Training Team and our drill teams practicing two times a day. Even during three different in port periods, we were running drills while other went on liberty,” the Magnolia, Ohio, native said. “I really think that is what helped us do so well not only on a team basis, but an individual basis at each different watch station.”

“I am so impressed every time that I come on this ship,” said Haflich. “Blue Ridge not only performs well above fleet standards, the engineering plant and crew perform better than any other ship in the Pacific Fleet.”



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Blue Ridge Sailors Promote International Relations with Soccer

OPPAMA, Japan — The USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) soccer team represented the United States by participating in the 10TH annual International Exchange of Sports soccer tournament in Yokosuka, Japan, on Oct. 16th.

The event is coordinated by the Yokosuka International Association and the Yokosuka Soccer Association, using soccer as a tool to promote positive international relations and friendship between nations.

A total of 12 teams took part in the tournament, including teams from Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, a local Yokosuka club, and Blue Ridge representing the United States.

The ship was given the opportunity to play against the Brazilian team and two semi-professional Japanese clubs.

The Blue Ridge team took to the rain-soaked field and played hard against their international opponents. Thanks to hustle, their competitive spirit, teamwork and sportsmanship, Blue Ridge kept the games close, but ultimately fell short on the scoreboard.

Goalkeeper Hospital Corpsman Richard Drake of Austin, Texas, thought it was a great opportunity for everyone involved.

"I'm glad that we were chosen to represent [the United States] in it," Drake said. "Playing against Brazil...it's great being out here on the same pitch as they are."

The team's coach and mentor, Blue Ridge Command Master Chief (SW) Tony Knight, was thrilled his team received the honor of playing in the tournament.



"These Sailors gave their weekend time and put their heart and soul into this game," Knight said. "They played well and I'm really proud of them."

Lt. Cmdr. John Wilshusen, USS Blue Ridge executive officer, said this competition gave people from different nations a chance to see the everyday side of another country's people.

"Having dignitaries and high officials like the president visit is great," Wilshusen said. "But for the average citizen of one country to be able to appreciate the average citizens of another country events like this have to happen."



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Blue Ridge Sails Through SMA

ABOARD USS BLUE RIDGE, at sea - USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) supply department recently met and exceeded expectations during its most crucial inspection, by scoring an outstanding 97.18% on their Supply Management Assessment (SMA).

SMA, conducted in an 18- to 24-month cycle, is the primary measure of success within the supply community. Four aspects of readiness are graded individually on a 100 point scale before a final score is calculated.

“The inspection primarily focused on general stores, food service, retail operations, and for the first

time, postal operations,” explained Blue Ridge’s supply officer Lt. Domingo Alinio.

In an effort to avoid last minute preparations and chaos leading up to the inspection, the Blue Ridge supply team prides itself in always maintaining high standards of cleanliness, preventive maintenance, and record keeping. Alinio said that although the inspection took place in August, preparations began long ago.

“We started getting ready after the last assessment two years ago,” said the San Diego native. “As this inspection got closer, preparations intensified. In February we created a plan of action with milestones and stuck to it.”

While the supply team’s attention to detail was vital to a successful SMA picture, Alinio was quick to point out that it took a ship wide effort to paint the resulting masterpiece.

“I give a lot of credit to the engineering department for maintaining the equipment in our food service divisions and the communications department for ensuring the software programs that support our complex inventories are up and operational,” said Alinio. “All departments, however, were essential in their strong support of the RPPO (Repair Parts Petty Officer) program.”

As divisional RPPOs were double-checking the accuracy of their logs, Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW) Khoi Pham of Rodeo, Calif., and the rest of the food service division devoted long hours to maintain their reputation as one of the fleet’s best overall messes.

“I am proud of the guys for their hard work spent in the beautification of the mess decks and galley and in the justification of our records,” said Pham. “The inspectors examined every last detail, and I am proud to say that we achieved a 98.6% overall in the food service category.”



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Engineering Department

Over the past three months the engineering department has successfully supported SRF in completing \$11.9 million dollars worth of Maintenance Availability. This year's Ship's Restricted Availability (SRA) included the completion of 291 jobs, including upgrades and modifications to Damage Control Central, Force Protection, and the installation of the SPS 73 navigational radar. Engineer's worked alongside SRF to satisfactorily complete 18 month boiler inspections on both 1A and 1B boilers. These intensive inspections required engineers to spend over 500 man hours per boiler in the disassembly and reassembly of various boiler parts as well as an additional 500 man hours in cleaning of boilers and piping. Techs corrected 56 material discrepancies returning the Fire Room to 100% operating capability.

At the end of the SRA period the department conducted an outstanding Light Off Assessment which marked the first of many Blue Ridge assessments for CAPT Bartkoski. As usual Blue Ridge engineers continued to show and prove that they are mountain top performers.

In addition to supporting SRF, Engineers ensured the superb execution of Family Day cruise to Tokyo, and Sea Trials. During Sea Trials various operational testing was conducted on engineering systems to include Boiler Flex testing, and the entire Counter Measure Wash Down system. All operational testing was satisfactory proving that the Blue Ridge Engineers are keeping the lights bright, and the shaft turning.

Bravo Zulu goes to all engineers that were advanced and Fair Winds and following seas to all engineers that are transferring and retiring.





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Deck Department

2005 was an exciting and productive year for Deck Department, as it finished the year working hard in support of the command. Always meeting our mission with success, no other ship in the fleet can match the Blue Ridge in its flagship appearance and skilled seamanship.

In September we put our Boatswain's Mate skills on display as the ship took part in Ulchi Focus Lens 2005. Throughout the course of the Fall, Deck performed ten mooring evolutions and two anchoring. With expert supervision from our petty officers and adept line-handling from our seamen, all evolutions went smoothly and safely.

Two major events took place this Fall. The first was the Change of Command ceremony, which took place the day after the ship returned to Yokosuka from UFL. Deck was in charge of the setup, and it was inspiring to see all three divisions team up to ensure that the ship looked its absolute best for the event: First Division rigged the bunting, Second Division set up the Main Deck, and Third Division repainted the Sides—all in one evening. A Change of Command is the biggest event in a ship's life, and there was no better way for Deck Department to thank CAPT Maynard for his faithful service than to present him and everyone else

in attendance with a pristine ship. The other event was the twelfth and final Big Top reception of the year, while the Blue Ridge was moored to Harumi Pier in Tokyo. Touted as the largest Big Top of the year, our effort was the culmination of our year-long strive to present the ship with the best of appearances for its distinguished guests.

During the three-month-long SRA period, Deck went to work bringing its spaces back to the highest states of material readiness. Our preservation projects, which involved sanding, stripping, and repainting, spanned the entire ship, including the forecastle, aft mooring, all mooring stations, the port side gravity davits, the main deck, and the Admiral's Barge. In addition, Deck spray painting teams supported the preservation projects of other divisions, by spray painting 65 spaces in all corners of the ship.

Whether it's through handling lines, standing the bridge watch, or preserving the skin of the ship, Deck will always be ready to support the command. 2005 was a highly successful year, and we are looking forward to reaching new heights in 2006.

Welcome Aboard:

Our new boatswain's mates: BM1(SW) Slodysko joins us from the USS HARRY S TRUMAN (CVN 75), and BM3(SW) Harris comes to us from the USS SHOUP (DDG 86). They bring their skills and expertise from their previous commands as they adapt to the ways of our Deck Department.



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A new engineman joins us from COMSEVENTHFLT, EN1(SW) Jackson. In addition to looking after all four of our boats, he has also been charged with running Deck's PMS program. He has already raised the bar for the PMS Crew, and demands integrity in the maintenance and accountability of our equipment.

Our new deck seamen, who are on the first sea duty tour of their careers: SN Warren, and twin brothers, Seamen Lester and Chester McKenzie.



Fair Winds and Following Seas:

Our 1st LT, LCDR Willmann, who left the ship in November. The ship's Bos'n, CWO3 Turner, will run the department until his relief arrives.

BMC(SW) Estoque, who transferred to shore duty in Pearl Harbor. BMC(SW) Townsend is now Deck Department's LCPO.

BM2(SW) Diaz, who transferred just across the waterfront to the USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62), and BM2 Chan, who went to the USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43) in Sasebo.

Bravo Zulu:

To the Blue Ridge's Flight Deck Crew, for achieving our ARQ certification. Conducted during every SRA period, this certification ensures that the ship is ready and able to conduct flight operations while underway.

To ENS Oree, who qualified as a SWO. ENS Oree was one of two SWO pins awarded by CAPT Maynard just before his departure.

To our new SAR swimmers who just recently completed Rescue Swimmer School, QM3 Lunneborg, and IT2 Beltran.

To all in Deck Department who were promoted through this Fall's advancement cycle: BM1(SW) Lozada, BM2(AW) Campbell, BM2 Chan, BM2 Dacara, BM2(SW) Diaz, BM3 Winger, GM3 Antwi, GM3 Chamberlain, SK3 Fabian, GM3 Marable, GM3 Newbern, and EN3 Wilson.



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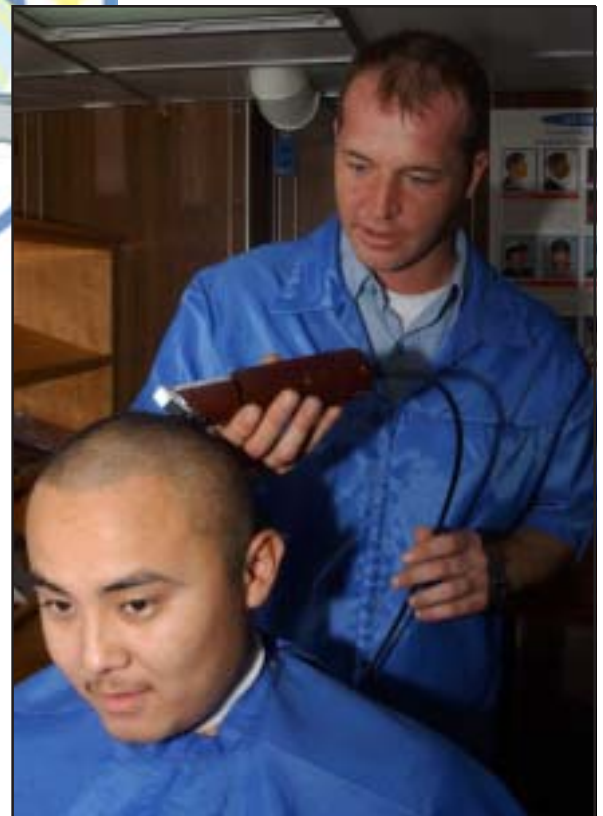
Supply Department

The General Stores Division (S-1) provided superior customer service in the procurement of critical and high priority requisitions during the recent Ships' Restricted Availability (SRA 43) period. Much needed preservation/painting of three storerooms and complete renovation of Post Office were accomplished. S-1/COMFAIRWESTPAC jointly completed the offload of the old SH-3G Helo Pack-Up Kit (PUK) and the on load of a new set of PUK for the SH-60F helicopters. Outstanding logistics support was also provided during Family Cruise and the two-day port visit to Tokyo.

Galley and on the mess decks as well as CPO mess during these period. S-2 underwent a week-long Division-In-Spot-Light (DISL) wherein readiness for the division, personnel, material condition and safety were evaluated and noted for improvement. The Food Service Division also served two major special meals; one in commemoration of USS Blue Ridge 35th birthday and the other during the Family and Friends Cruise for Blue Ridge and 7th Fleet personnel accentuated by an ice cream social and snacks in the evening.

The Sales Division(S-3) has provided outstanding service to the crew and offered a wide selection of products. With several discounted sale events, the sales for the accounting period ending Sep 05 grossed \$143,442.70 yielding a total of \$17,000 profits earmarked for transfer to the ship's Moral Welfare and Recreation (MWR) fund.

The Wardroom/Billeting staffs have been very busy the last few months. During SRA, the division had a major work done on refrigeration units and staterooms. S-5 completely repainted all their spaces and had numerous staterooms completely overhauled. Tiger teams were set up and led by the respective Petty Officer-In-Charge of each zone for the prep and repainting work. Along with all 10 main passageways being repainted, they had 11 officer heads and 8 fan-rooms spray painted. As part of preparation for Terminal Fury 2006 exercise, S-5 billeting did one-for-one berthing compartment transfer with Deck Department. The Division assumed ownership of the 123-man berthing to help increase the number of racks that they can provide to major Joint Task Force exercises hosted by COMSEVENTHFLT.





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Personnel Highlights

Bravo Zulu to our very own Supply Officer LT Alinio and CWO2 Villanueva for their selection to LCDR and CWO3 respectively, and to ENS Decker and ENS Lieng for qualifying as Surface Warfare Supply Corp Officers pin; to SK2(SW) Paule, CS2(SW) Tubera and SH2(SW) Carpio for being advanced to Petty Officer First Class; to SK3(SW) Gatlinton and SH3(SW) Barlow for being advanced to Petty Officer Second Class; to SKSN(SW) Jones, SKSN Garcia, SN Fabian, CSSN San Agustin and SHSN Lasley for being advanced to Petty Officer Third Class.

Job Well Done to SH2(SW) Borromeo for his selection to STA 21 program. PS3(SW) Wu has successfully completed the DK "C" Travel School in San Diego, Ca.

Congratulations to PS1(SW) McCollough for being selected as Supply Department's Senior Sailor of the Quarter, SK2(SW) Villahermosa Junior Sailor of the Quarter and to CS3(SW) Harris for Blue Jacket of the Quarter, 4th Quarter CY05.

We welcome aboard:

CS2 Cline
CS2 Guaman
SH2 Conner
PS2(SW/AW) Vangkham
CS3 Kane
CS3 Teets
SH3(SW/AW) Stewart
SHSN Diazagulo
SHSN Nichols
SHSA Mays
SHSR Worthing

We bid a fond farewell to:

LT Chris Poulos TAD to Kabul, Afghanistan
CS1(SW) Cabarloc
CS2(SW) Baxter
CS2(SW) Rangel
CS3 Salmo
CS3(SW) Santos





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Combat Systems Department

As seasons shifted from summer to fall and our department excelled through it all, There are a plethora of things to mention, from births and marriages to our retention. The sailors of Combat Systems department, can always be found in every compartment, Answering trouble calls and fixing gear, seldom are they not of good cheer!

CSI Division

The mighty ICmen of CSI Division have been particularly busy over the last quarter, not only professionally but also personally. During BLUE RIDGE's most recently Ship's Restricted Availability

period, the ship underwent a series of upgrades to a variety of systems, and two of the extensive and important upgrades were within the CSI Division. First was an upgrade to our phone switches and with over 1200 phones throughout the ship you can imagine the impact that had. Now that the upgrade is completely there is enhanced system reliability, greater redundancy, greater security, and AUDIX voicemail box capability. The improvement to one of our most important communication systems on board will continue to have an enormously positive impact on both the COMSEVENTHFLT staff as well as the BLUE RIDGE sailors. The second major upgrade was to our IC Switchboard, which provides gyro inputs to all of our communications and navigational equipment, which requires gyro stabilization for tracking and timing purposes. In addition, there was a great amount of effort put into the replacement and overhaul of our 21MC system as well as several other Interior Communications circuits. This is an unbelievably critical task, allowing watchstanders and personnel to communicate amongst the spaces not only during normal operations, but also during drills and conditions of heightened readiness. Amidst all of that work there were still great individual accomplishments!

The shop welcomed aboard two new faces over the last few months, *IC3 CARTER AND IC2 SCHERMERHORN*. We are very excited about both of these new arrivals and expect great things from both of them given their past performances in the fleet and BLUE RIDGE is an excellent opportunity to excel. Also *ICFN GALVIN WAS ADVANCED TO IC3 GALVIN!!*, which is a major step for him toward greater authority and responsibility as a Third Class Petty Officer. Another major accomplishment from the IC shop was the selection of **IC1 FERNANDEZ AS BLUE RIDGE'S SENIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER. BRAVO ZULU IC1!!**

In other news from the decks below, **IC2 SORTER CELEBRATED A MARRIAGE TO AYUMI SORTER** on October 29th in Yokohama. It was a beautiful ceremony and was another sign of the close ties that U.S. Navy has with the Japanese community. Additionally over the quarter there were a few Birthdays celebrated: IC3 Clark, IC1 Fernandez, and ENS Byrne. We also say good bye to IC2 Howard who transferred to USS Gary (FFG-51). We will miss his dedication and work ethic. We wish you the best of luck aboard USS Gary.



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CSF Division

During this quarter there has been a smattering of events and accomplishments by the mighty Blue Ridge Gunners of the CSF division and the Force Protection Cadre. The Gunners have contributed much to the Blue Ridge mission. During the November SRA period, CSF flawlessly completed a magazine sprinkler recertification to properly store ammunition and successfully qualified watchstanders on the 9MM and M14 weapons.

During this layover, the Gunners received a number of new faces. Welcome aboard to LTJG Hays (“Weaps”), ENS Pisani (“Ordo”), GM3 Antwi, GM3 Chamberlain, GM3 Marable, and GM3 Newbern. They will provide a fresh outlook and will need a strong pair of hands to meet the CSF standard. Also, the Gunners would like to say “fair winds and following seas” to LT Williamson, FC2 Bayot, GM2 Phillips, and GM2 Wainz. These dedicated sailors will surely be missed.

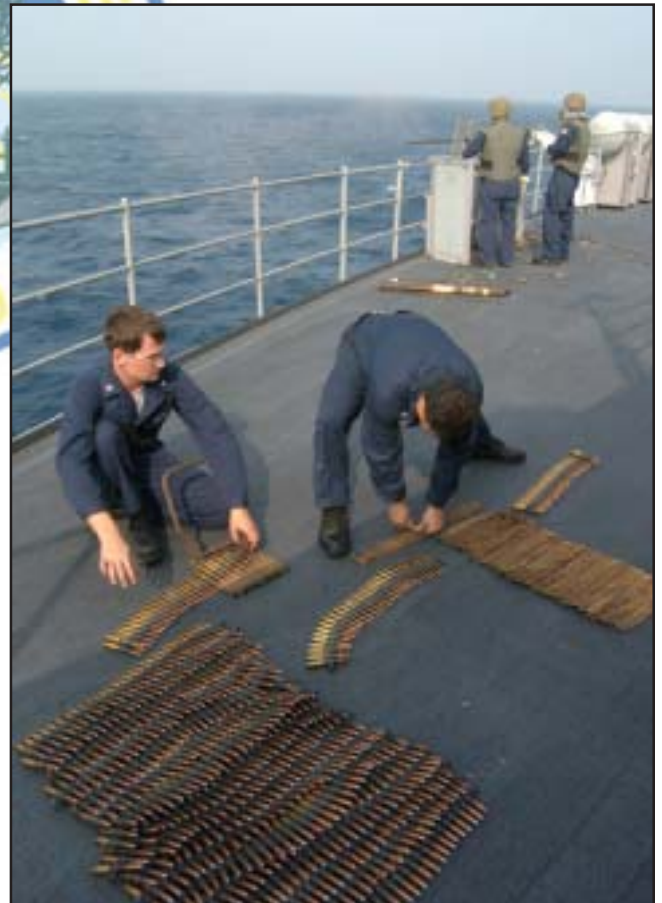
The Gunners know how to work hard. FC3 Haynes recently qualified as part of the Flight Deck “Smash & Crash” team. *CONGRATULATIONS TO FC2 RIGGS, YN2 VALDEZ, GM2 VINSON, AND GM2 WAINZ, WHO WERE RECENTLY FROCKED.* Their leadership will be a key component in helping the “new guys” adjust to the division. Moreover, the Gunners know how to play hard. LT Williamson and GM1 Tavai were part of the 2005 Captain’s Cup Championship Blue Ridge volleyball team. GM2 Allbritten won the Zushi Marina Fishing Championship by catching over thirty fish, including a trophy size mahi-mahi. FCC Bauer finally received his Gene Simmons KISS outfit.

Lastly, **CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH GM2 COWART AND GM2 WAINZ WHO WIVES RECENTLY GAVE BIRTH TO TWO HEALTHY BABY BOYS!!!**

These are just a few highlights from the mighty Gunners. The real praise for these sailors comes from their daily strain to training, maintenance, and cleanliness. The Gunners are happy to provide the weapons component that makes up the best department on the Blue Ridge—Combat Systems. **HOO-YAH!**

CSE Division

Life aboard a US naval vessel is an exciting and dynamic environment, and USS Blue Ridge is no exception! Fresh Wogs, er... new check-ins face the daunting challenge of adjusting to the sometimes trying and difficult lifestyle of a sailor. However, with a little guidance and discipline, we’ll make Trusty Shellbacks out of you, yet!





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On behalf of the Combat Systems chain of command, CSE would like to extend a warm welcome to:

ET3 Joshua A. Morris, from Los Angeles, CA.

ETSN Lyle D. Mardis, from San Diego, CA.

ETSN Joseph P. Ginnett, from Grene, ME.

Unfortunately no sailor can stay at the same command forever. New faces arrive to replace our old friends as they depart. Those "tried-and-true" shipmates have left to start exciting new chapters in their lives, and their presence here will be missed by those who knew them. May you find fair winds and smooth seas, shipmates! Someday, Poseidon willing, we'll meet again on the other side of the Raging Main!

ET2 (SW) Jimmy Reed, transferred to Great Lakes, IL

ET2 (SW) Todd Marchese, transferred to Rota, Spain

ET3 (SW) Kenna Jefferson was honorably discharged, and now resides in Sydney, Australia with her husband, Niall.



The call has been sent far and wide for men and women of strong character to continue their service to the United States Navy. Retention of experienced sailors is crucial to the Navy, as they provide the guidance and experience that some of our newer sailors may need. THE PROUD SAILORS LISTED BELOW HAVE COURAGEOUSLY ANSWERED THAT CALL! The unwavering commitment these select few have displayed in continued service to their country and fellow shipmates is highly commendable.

ET3 Scally (30AUG05)

ETCS Galito 10SEP05)

ET3 Pepper (26SEP05)

ET2 Reed (10OCT05)

ET2 Caguin (04NOV05)

ET3 Wieland (10DEC05)

ET2 Felmlee (17JAN06)

BRAVO ZULU to ET1 (SCW/SW) John Hoke and FC2 Matthew Secamiglio for their recent promotions following the September advancement cycle. ET2 Thompson was also meritoriously advanced to ET1 by Capt. Bartkoski through the Command Advancement Program. Good luck to all three of these Sailors as they don an additional chevron on their uniforms and all of the added responsibilities that go with it.



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Communications Department

Fall 2005 was a time of change for Communications Department. Communications Information Systems Officer (CISO) LT Ken Demick departed Blue Ridge after 3 years of service, and is currently serving in Afghanistan. He is relieved by LCDR Will Arnold, who came to Blue Ridge from Naval Station Keflavik, Iceland. Network Operations Division Officer LT Derby Luckie was relieved by LTjg Satonya Brown, who reported in from the USS VINCENNES. LT Luckie served aboard Blue Ridge for 2 years, and is now at NCTS Far East. The Communications Department also welcomed a new division into the fold, N64SI/SPINTCOMM, led by ENS Rich Mascolo. ENS Mascolo is currently attending Surface Warfare Officers School in preparation for earning his warfare qualification.

ITC King advanced to chief petty officer shortly before transferring to Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific, HI. ITC Stanley relieved ITC Stowe as CL division LCPO; and ITC Wallace relieved ITC Williams as CR division LCPO. ITC Arevalo, TAD to Blue Ridge from COMSEVENTHFLEET, advanced to chief petty officer shortly before returning to COMSEVENTHFLEET. She currently works with ITC Conyers with issues related to Information Assurance.

Upon the completion of Exercise Talisman Saber 05, the Communications Department began making preparations for Exercise Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL) 05. UFL is a joint exercise with the Republic of Korea. UFL participants utilized the CENTRIXS-K network, a system maintained by the Tactical Systems work center. Network Security personnel created more than 350 accounts, and Network Operations personnel deployed numerous computer assets and provided user support for the exercise. Technical Control Division provided critical data links to ensure the success of the exercise.

UFL also gave our sailors the opportunity to enjoy liberty in Chinhae and Pusan. Communications Department personnel enjoyed sampling local cuisine, sightseeing, and experiencing the local culture. The highlight of the UFL port visits was shopping. The Korean shopping scene is known for mink blankets, sports jerseys, and leather goods. Many sailors enjoyed the opportunity to go on personal shopping sprees and take care of Christmas shopping.

After UFL ended, Blue Ridge came home and entered a selected restricted availability (SRA) maintenance period. During this time, Communications Department received numerous space renovations and system upgrades that allow the department to provide better service in support of Blue Ridge and Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet missions. The maintenance availability ended on 20 NOV 2005 with a Family Day cruise to Tokyo, followed by Sea Trials. The Family Day cruise gave our sailors the opportunity to show off Blue Ridge to family members, and to see the sights of Tokyo.



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The end of the year is a busy time for Communications Department. Exercise Terminal Fury 06 is a joint U.S. military services exercise in which participants simulate war-fighting operations. Thousands of man-hours were expended in preparation of the exercise. Network Security created over 700 user accounts, and Network Operations deployed computer assets ship-wide in support of the exercise. Technical Control Division reconfigured data links and phone lines. The Message Center added 2 more accounts and computers to manage and prepare all incoming messages to support a 4-fold increase in message volume. At the time of this article, we are currently in the middle of this exercise. All Communications Department personnel are working tirelessly to support the mission and have performed with outstanding results.

Welcome aboard

LCDR Arnold
LTJG Brown
ITC Stanley
ITC Wallace
IT1 Whitt
IT2 Brown
IT2 Castro
IT2 Hendricks
IT2 Goto
IT2 Naguit
IT2 Rhoads
ITSA Richardson
ITSA Carpenter

Farewell and Following Seas

LT Demick
LT Luckie
ITC King
ITC Stowe
ITC Williams
IT1 Gullaba
IT2 Ries
IT2 Reynolds
IT2 Palsis
IT2 Stegall
IT2 Wallace



Congratulations to the following personnel for earning qualification as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS):

IT2 DeShields	IT2 Jones
IT2 Kolbo	IT2 Maggard
IT2 Perez	

Congratulations to the following personnel on their advancement:

IT1 (AW) Holden	IT1 (SW) Pagulayan
IT1 (SW) Talley	IT2 Fisher
IT2 (SW) Hendricks	IT3 Carivau
IT3 Enriquez	IT3 Flores
IT3 Hollywoodward	IT3 (AW) Lovejoy
IT3 Lummus	IT3 Pearson
YN3 Russ	IT3 Silvas
IT3 Stuvengen	IT3 Townsend



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Operations Department

During the month of August, the Operations Department, along with the rest of the BLUE RIDGE team, participated in an extremely successful bilateral exercise with the South Korean military titled ULCHI FOCUS LENS (UFL) 2005. This underway period spanned three weeks, and it allowed BLUE RIDGE and the embarked SEVENTHFLT Staff to work closely with our South Korean allies. Following this exercise, BLUE RIDGE completed a rigorous three month Ships Restricted Availability (SRA) in port at Yokosuka, Japan. During this period, Operations Department was able to complete much required training, upgrade numerous spaces, and prepare for deployment in 2006.

Following SRA 2005, Operations Department got BLUE RIDGE underway safely during a challenging Sea and Anchor detail through narrow channels, and underneath the famous Rainbow Bridge, in route to Tokyo, Japan. During this Family Cruise, many of the ship's crew were able to embark friends and family on board, thus affording them the opportunity to sightsee and experience life aboard a United States Ship.

After leaving an enjoyable port visit in Tokyo, BLUE RIDGE underwent a successful three-day Sea Trials before returning to her homeport in Yokosuka, Japan to conduct exercise TERMIAL FURY 2006, one of the biggest exercises of the year. After completion of the exercise, the department will go on to enjoy a well deserved holiday stand-down.

As part of UFL, the Navigation team safely carried the ship into the two Korean ports of Chinhae and Pyong-taek. In addition, the Navigation team took BLUE RIDGE safely to and from Tokyo for a Family Cruise and Sea Trials. During the past several months, Navigation Division has had to say farewell to QM2 Heath Slack, who returned home to Ohio, QM2 Chris Belanger, who is now back home in California, and QMSN Jamahl Scott who returned home to Michigan. QM2 Darius Johnson and QM2 Tony Evans are also now back stateside after having accepted assignments to bases in Virginia and Texas respectively. The dedication and commitment of all five of these fine sailors will truly be missed. Before QM2 Johnson left, he along with QM2 Her Lee, and SN Nikia Jones earned their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualifications, a milestone for every Navy service member, and a large step in their successful Navy careers. Navigation Division also received the great news that three of their sailors were selected for promotion to Second Class Petty Officer. Congratulations are extended to QM2 Terry Brittell, QM2 Christine Granlund, and QM2 Ralph Lunneborg for their accomplishments. Lastly, QM2 Ralph Lunneborg recently completed the demanding Search and Rescue Swimmer School (SARS), an achievement that will positively affect the ship's readiness as we begin preparations for our next deployment in 2006.

In OI Division, congratulations are extended to the following personnel for their success in advancing to the next pay-grade during the September advancement exam: OS2 Deantre Davis, OS3 Robert Barksdale, OS3 James Cardis, OS3 Alison Foote, and OS3 Tiffany Motsinger. OI Division would also like to extend a warm welcome to the following new arrivals: OSSA Jennifer Flores from OS "A" school, OS3 James Cardis from the USS JOHN F KENNEDY homeported in Mayport, Florida,



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OS2 McCajor Quinn from Recruiter duty in Chicago, Illinois, and OS1 Kyle Wilson from the USS O'KANE home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. OI Division would also like to thank and congratulate OS2(SW) Mayumi Kimura for her recent reenlistment, displaying her dedication to both the Navy and the United States of America.

In other great news, congratulations are extended to OS2(SW) Stacey Johnson for her selection as the USS BLUE RIDGE Junior Sailor of the Quarter (JSOQ) for the months of July through September. As time passes we must bid farewell to some of our OI Division family who have left us recently, or soon will be, to continue their careers at another command. Recently departed is OS2 Henry Parker who has transferred to Virginia, OS1

Kevin Ussery who is continuing his career onboard USS NIMITZ, and OS2 Stacey Johnson who is continuing her career onboard USS CHANCELLORSVILLE.

Following a successful underway during ULCHI FOCUS LENS in August, OT Division returned back to port in Yokosuka to begin a lengthy and demanding SRA period. During this availability period, OT Division had the opportunity to revitalize all their spaces, and upgrade major components of the SLQ-32 Electronic Warfare System aboard. Additionally, OT Division received an overhaul and upgrade on all four SRBOC launchers, an improvement which benefits both the appearance and capability of our primary anti-ship missile defense system. Upon the completion of SRA 2005, OT Division began a short yet busy Sea Trials. In this short amount of time, the division effectively tested the active jamming capability of the SLQ-32 and also successfully fired several rounds of chaff. Currently, the division is hard at work studying for the upcoming Electronic Warfare Assessment exam in December. OT Division would like to congratulate CTT1 Jasen Williams in his advancement to Chief Petty Officer on 16 September 2005, a great milestone in his Navy career and a great benefit to the division. OT Division would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest addition to the team, CTTSN James Maestas who checked aboard in early September, and hails from Colorado Springs, CO. Lastly, OT Division would like to wish farewell and following seas to CTT3 Joseph Harrelson who will be departing us in December, and returning home to civilian life in Huntsville, Alabama.





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Medical/ Dental Department

The Medical and Dental Department has remained fully engaged over the last quarter to maintain our high level of Force Health Readiness and encourage our sailors to make healthy choices.

Congratulations are in-order for Lt. Cmdr. Nicholas and Mrs. Imelda Cardinale who are the proud parents of Nicholas Matthew Cardinale born on 22NOV at Naval Hospital Yokosuka.

Currently, the medical department is gathering and finalizing the last bit of data for submission of the green H award for FY 2005. We are encouraged that this year's campaign will be just as successful as those of previous years.

As we all know, routine exercise has been shown to increase endurance, build strength and elevate your mood. It is also an essential component to managing your weight and chronic conditions like high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes.

A Bravo Zulu goes out to HN Stahl and DT1 Gozum whom were selected to represent the Medical/Dental department as the Blue Jacket and Junior Sailor of the fourth quarter as well as the Blue Jacket and Junior Sailor of the year 2005.

Hail and Farewell

We bid a fond farewell and following seas to HMC Nemsingh, HM1 Marshall, and HM2 Edwards who were valuable members of the medical/dental team. Their leadership, and dedication to professionalism will be missed.





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Administration Department

The Admin Department has once again taken on the arduous and sometimes tedious task of making sure that the entire crew's service records are up to date and correct. The entire Admin Department also contributed significantly to the BLUE RIDGE during our recent in port period. We painted P-ways, took care of any Damage Control discrepancies, and took care of our shipmate's administrative needs.

Once again, X-2 Division's Journalists and Photographer's Mates kept the Yokosuka base news paper full of images and stories of the accomplishments of the crew during our recent Shipboard Repair Availability. The Print Shop was also kept very busy making signs and plaques for various spaces through out the ship.



X-2 Division would like to welcome aboard the following shipmates to the finest Flag Ship in the US Navy, PH1 Dilbert Davis, PH2 Keith, and LISN Jesse Shuey. We would also like to wish fair winds and following seas to the following shipmates and we wish them the best in their future. PH2 Chantal Clayton and LI3 Stacy Miranda

X-3 has had an exciting and very busy time since the last newsletter. We moved into a temporary office while our old spaces were remodeled. The brig that has been on board since the ship was commissioned 35 years ago was removed. New office spaces and a state of the art fan room with electric air conditioning and heat was installed. The MAA's moved into their new spaces on November 16 and are utilizing the spaces to the fullest.

Our department has a compliment of 6 TAD personnel, one from each department onboard. Our current TAD staff consists of FC1(SW) White from CBS, OS2(SW) Davis from OPS, SK2(SW) Pacheco from Supply, MM3(SW) Shelby from Engineering, IT3(SW) Castro from Comms, and GM3 Marable from Deck. They are doing an outstanding job for X3.

Due to a gapped Chief Master-at-Arms billet on board the USS FORT MCHENRY in Sasebo, MAC Holloway went TAD for three months based on an ISIC request for assistance, since his arrival there he's assisted in the revamping of the ship's urinalysis program, administrative separations, ATPF 3, and LOA. We look forward to his return before the holidays.

The following personnel are now back with their parent department and deserve a big THANK YOU for their outstanding services while TAD to X3: ET2(SW/AW) Marou, OS2 Layman, and CS3(SW) Davis.



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Bravo Zulu to the following personnel for the following accomplishments:

Advancements to the next higher pay grade: LTJG Melissa Miller (Security Officer) , IT2 Penaranda, OS2 Layman, CTT2 Fritz, OS2 Davis, GM3 Marable, and MA3(SW) Tape.

Earning their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist: IT2(SW) Penaranda, MM2(SW) Moore, and SN(SW) Tape.

Reenlisting: CS3(SW) Davis and OS2 Layman.

Striking and Cross Rating: MA3(SW) Tape for his selection to MA "A" school. He was an undesignated SN from Deck, and MM2(SW) Moore who was selected to attend JO "A" school and will become JO2 upon completion.

Fair Winds and Following Seas to SN(SW) Tape who transferred to Kings Bay, Georgia, and IT2(SW) Penaranda who is now in sunny Hawaii.

